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Identical letters dated 29 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement of the State Duma, the lower house of the Federal Assembly of Russia, on the situation in Libya (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

11-28700 (E) 040411 040411

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Annex to the letter dated 29 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Declaration by the State Duma on the situation in Libya

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation notes with concern that the situation in Libya is developing extremely unfavourably. The conflict between Government forces and rebels has resulted in the loss of lives and threatens to grow into a civil war. The Deputies of the State Duma express their condolences to the Libyan people in connection with the many deaths.

On 26 February 2011 the Russian Federation, and other States members of the United Nations Security Council, supported resolution 1970 (2011), which contained a clear message to the Government of Libya that any use of military force was inadmissible. Since this message was not heeded in Tripoli, a stronger response was required from the international community.

Unfortunately, the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation on 16 March 2011, which underscored the need for a peaceful settlement of the situation in Libya, with the participation of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and representatives of the Human Rights Council and the African Union, did not receive sufficient support. Although the aim of Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), adopted on 17 March 2011, was primarily to protect the civilian population of Libya, including through the imposition of a no-fly zone, this resolution did not set clear limits on the use of military force.

The Deputies of the State Duma consider that the decision of the Russian Federation to abstain in the voting was appropriate in that situation. This option maintained the cohesion of the international community in rejecting military repression of the civilian population of Libya, while leaving intact the message sent to the Libyan leadership to protect its citizens.

However, the implementation of the resolution has revealed the desire of a number of States to use it as a pretext for achieving other aims. According to media reports, since 19 March 2011, in the context of the military operation conducted by a coalition of States, missile attacks on the territory of Libya have struck a number of sites which had no direct relation to the no-fly zone.

The Deputies of the State Duma believe that the indiscriminate use of force against Libya could delay the prospects for stabilizing the Libyan situation, lead to further deaths among the civilian population and hasten the attempts by a number of States to develop national programmes for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

The State Duma joins the demands of the United Nations Security Council for an immediate ceasefire and a complete end to the violence and all attacks against, and harsh treatment of, civilians. It calls on the Libyan leadership and the States

members of the coalition to strictly follow in their actions the spirit and letter of the relevant resolutions.

At the same time, the State Duma expresses its concern at the extent and forms of military force used against Libya and calls on the parliaments of France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Italy, Canada and other States involved in the military operation to support an immediate cessation of the hostilities, which are damaging Libyan civilian infrastructure, and most importantly are causing additional casualties among the civilian population.

The Russian Federation should take all necessary measures, primarily to ensure the safety of Russian Federation citizens in Libya, including their evacuation if necessary. It should also take an active role in diplomatic efforts, including possible mediation efforts, with a view to halting the violence in Libya.

Taking into account that, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), the States taking part in the military operation against Libya shall coordinate their actions closely with the Secretary-General and inform him immediately of the measures they are taking to implement the resolution, the State Duma requests President Medvedev of the Russian Federation to instruct the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue to make every possible effort in the Security Council to ensure that its implementation of the resolutions concerning Libya is strictly in keeping with the stated humanitarian goals, the Charter of the United Nations and the generally accepted principles and norms of international law.

B. V. Gryzlov
President of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
Moscow
23 March 2011